Price 2d.

THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

MAGAZINE.

No. CLI. JULY, 1861. Vol. XIII.

RAGGED SCHOOL
PRECEPT.
PROMISE.
And thou shalt be blessed for they cannot recompense thee for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just: Luke XIV. 4.

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever."—1 Peter i. 25.

PROFITS DEVOTED TO RAGGED SCHOOLS.

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JOHNSTONE AND HUNTER, EDINBURGH; ROBERTSON, DUBLIN; AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

* * * All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, 1, Exeter Hall, London.
Orders for Advertisements to be sent to Robert K Burt, Printer, Holborn Hill.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee beg with thanks to acknowledge the receipt of a parcel of books for forming a Library at Fleet Ditch School, from a Friend; a parcel of under-clothing from Mrs. Hoare; a parcel of clothing and books from Miss Parsons; and a parcel of books from Miss Loft, for School Libraries.

Donations of books for forming Ragged School Libraries will be thankfully received by Mr. J. G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, W.C.

A BOOK FOR RAGGED SCHOOLS.

Just published, price 4d. sewed, 6d. cloth,

THE LAND WE LIVE IN;

OR,

England's History in Simple Language,

SUITED TO

CHILDREN IN SUNDAY AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.

BY WILLIAM LOCKE,

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To be had by Ragged School Teachers at trade price, at 1, Exeter Hall.

WANTED by a Young Man (of late a Paid Teacher in a Boys' Night Ragged School) a situation of a similar kind.
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CLERKENWELL.

LAMB AND FLAG RAGGED SCHOOL,

LAMB COURT, CLERKENWELL GREEN,

(South side of Sessions House.)

REV. R. MAGUIRE, President.

VERY URGENT APPEAL FOR FUNDS TO ENLARGE THE ABOVE SCHOOLS.

The Committee in submitting this appeal to the consideration of the Christian public, feel it to be unnecessary to enter into the importance or necessity of these institutions, daily experience having proved both.

The locality in which the above Schools are situated is one of the lowest and most depraved in London, where destitution in all forms, vice of all description, and deep-rooted ignorance abounds.

In the midst of this for sixteen years these Schools have stood, and all available means have been used to cope with, and stem the torrent of evil which abounds in the neighbourhood. By God's blessing upon the efforts put forth, very much good has been effected, some thousands of children have learned to praise their Maker, hundreds have passed from childhood into manhood, and are now satisfactorily pursuing honest and respectable callings, many have gone into eternity, and ere their departure have given good proof that the instruction given and labour bestowed have not been in vain.

What would have been the condition of very many, nay, most of these children, had it not been for the fostering care of this institution? The question is almost too fearful for contemplation.

Although much has been accomplished, the Committee are compelled to do more. The present School accommodation is totally insufficient for the numbers at present on the Books, without considering those who are DAILY REFUSED for want of room, especially the Infants from three to six years of age, the proper education of whom is of the highest importance.

The Sabbath School is so largely attended as to render it unhealthy alike for Children and a band of devoted Teachers.

Under these pressing circumstances, the Committee have taken the lease of a House adjoining the present premises, which, together with those already occupied, are secured on lease for forty years.

About £600 will be required to effect the necessary alterations, and the Committee have become liable, knowing from past experience that such an appeal will not be made in vain, but will meet with such a response from all whom God has blessed with the means, and who feel for the unhappy condition of that class which these institutions seek to benefit.

The Schools are conducted upon no sectarian principle; all who come of the right class are admitted; no ragged or destitute one sent away, except for lack of room.

Your liberal aid is therefore respectfully and earnestly solicited, and the Committee hope that all will help, remembering the words of Him who said, "And thou shalt be blessed, for they cannot recompense thee, for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just."

The operations carried on are,

DAILY SCHOOL.—Boys, Girls, Infants.
EVENING SCHOOL.—Twice a Week.—Boys and Girls.
MOTHERS' MEETING.—Once a Week.
CLOTHING FUND, Threepence being added to every One Shilling deposited by the Parents, and the articles of wearing apparel made in the School, or by Ladies' Committee.
MATERNITY AND SICK SOCIETY.
SHOE FUND, in connection with Mothers' Class.
SUNDAY SCHOOL.—Morning, Afternoon, and Evening.

Any other information required will readily be afforded by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. J. WATTS, 7, Birchmore Terrace, Cardington Street, Hampstead Road, N.W., by whom donations will be most thankfully received, and also by the Treasurer, Mr. JAMES TERRY, 25, St. John Street, Clerkenwell, E.C., and Mr. GENT, Ragged School Union, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand, London.

WENTWORTH STREET RAGGED SCHOOL,

Near Petticoat Lane, Whitechapel.

Treasurer.

Mr. AARON AYSHFORD, 1, Neville Villas, Richmond Road, Dalston, and 9, Friday Street, Cheapside.

Hon. Secretary.—Mr. WM. FERRY, 2, Richmond Terrace, Queen's Road, Dalston.

Committee.

Rev. JOHN PATTESON, M.A., Rector, Christ Church, Spitalfields.
Rev. SAMUEL THORNTON, M.A., Incumbent, St. Jude's, Whitechapel.
Mr. JOSEPH FEARN, 3, Albion Square, Dalston.
Dr. KING, King Edward's Road, Hackney.
Mr. GEORGE SOTHERS, 6, Alma Terrace, Dalston.
Mr. C. J. WEBB, 21, Park Road, Dalston.
Mr. JOSH. WILKINSON, 1, Oxford Terrace, Middleton Road, Dalston.

Mrs. PATTESON, Rectory, Christ Church, Spitalfields.
Miss THORNTON, St. Jude's Parsonage, Whitechapel.
Mrs. AYSHFORD, 1, Neville Villas, Richmond Road, Dalston.
Mrs. JOSEPH FEARN, 3, Albion Square, Dalston.
Miss KING, King Edward's Road, Hackney.
Mrs. SOTHERS, 6, Alma Terrace, Dalston.
Mrs. J. WILKINSON, 1, Oxford Terrace, Middleton Road, Dalston.

THE Committee most earnestly solicit aid in behalf of this well-planted, useful, but needy School. It is situate in one of the most degraded, depraved, and necessitous localities of London. It is held in a large house, formerly a public-house. The inhabitants are chiefly composed of costermongers, stall-keepers, professional beggars, rag-dealers, small tradesmen, dock labourers; a few hard-working, honest, poor artizans; but, alas, a greater number of questionable and well-known bad characters, who live by systematic thieving and vices of the grossest character. The neighbourhood abounds with low lodging-houses. Here are, in vast numbers, poor children of Jewish, Dutch, German, and English parents. But many are the children of destitution, some having lost all traces of their parents; others are the orphans of street beggars; and not a few are the children of abandoned women.

For the benefit of this neighbourhood, this School is planted. Its operations consist of

A Sabbath Evening School.

A Week-day School.

Week-night Schools for Men, Boys, and Girls.

There are also Services for the Adult Poor in the open-air, in front of the building, and in the School-room; a Society for the employment of Poor Women at Needlework, and supplying the poor with Articles of Clothing at a cheap rate; and Temperance Meetings.

The Committee have to acknowledge with thanks a handsome donation of £50, forwarded to their Secretary, Mr. W. Ferry, from a Friend, per T. A. Sykes, Esq. This will go a great way towards removing a heavy debt, and they trust that additional prompt assistance will be afforded them, so that they may be able to clear off all claims, and not only continue the operations as at present, but extend them.

The Ragged School Union have kindly promised £25 when the remaining sum is raised; and the Earl of Shaftesbury has also kindly intimated his intention to give the sum of £20.

The Committee cannot look for support from the locality itself, and therefore appeal to the benevolent resident elsewhere.

*** Subscriptions or donations will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, Mr. Aaron Ayshford, 1, Neville Villas, Richmond Road, Dalston, and 9, Friday Street, Cheapside, or the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. Ferry, 2, Richmond Terrace, Queen's Road, Dalston.

SMITH'S PLACE (SOMERS TOWN) RAGGED SCHOOL.

The Committee have the pleasure of announcing that they have been enabled to purchase the premises mentioned in previous notices. They are situate in Brill Place, sufficiently near the present School, and well adapted for the various operations of a Ragged School, comprising accommodation for 300 Children and for separate classes, Mothers' and other Meetings, Lectures, &c. The Committee now earnestly request the kind aid of the friends of Ragged Schools in providing the amount necessary to pay for the repairs and alterations required.

Contributions will be thankfully received by Mr. Mirams, 35, Stanmore Street, Caledonian Road, N.; by Mr. Lyne, at the School, on Wednesday and Friday evenings, from Eight till Nine; or at the Ragged School Union.

SMITH'S PLACE (SOMERS TOWN) RAGGED SCHOOL.

Contributions of Toys, Trinkets, and other articles, useful or ornamental, made or unmade, are earnestly solicited for the Bazaar, to be held in the autumn of 1861, in aid of the Fund required for the extended operations intended to be commenced in the New School-rooms. Donations received as above.

Parcel received since last Notice:—From The Honourable Mrs. Grantham, (second parcel.)

One Dozen Real Russian Ox Tongues for a Guinea.
Westphalia Hams, according to size, 8d. and 8½d. per pound.
Strasbourg Bacon, the prime cut, 10d. per pound.
Dried and Pickled Tongues, 3s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. each.
American Cheese, equal to Cheshire, from 7½d.
Stilton Cheese, from 1s.

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CHEESE AND BUTTER WAREHOUSE,

88, HIGH STREET, BOROUGH, S.E.

60,000 Deaths

Occur every year in England and Wales by Consumption alone.

OZONIZED COD LIVER OIL

Has been proved at the Hospital for Consumption, Brompton, London, to be the nearest approach to a specific yet found for this fatal disease. The pulse is lowered, a far more generous diet may be taken, and the general health is thereby unmistakably improved. See *Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society's Transactions, Vol.* 42, *for* 1859; *Lancet*, July 9, 1859; *Pharmaceutical Journal*, August 1, 1859, &c.

Prepared only by G. BORWICK, Sole Licensee, 21, Little Moorfields, London. Sold in 2s. 6d., 4s. 9d., and 9s. Bottles.

London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution.

Office, 200, Euston Road, near Euston Square, N.W.

PRESIDENT—REV. THOMAS DALE, CANON OF ST. PAUL'S.

FUNDS NEEDED.

The Committee regret to be obliged to announce that during the past half-year the income of this Institution has not been adequate to the expenditure, notwithstanding the greatest economy has been exercised. This may be accounted for by the fact that during the above period public sympathy has been diverted from its ordinary channels by providential circumstances, viz., an unusually hard winter, and the Indian Famine; but we must rejoice that the streams of benevolence flowed so freely for the mitigation of sufferings at home and abroad. Unless the Committee receive prompt and liberal aid they will be compelled to limit their operations very much during the coming autumn, which alternative it is hoped will be averted, for it is more important than ever to keep the Homes in full operation, now that there are so many Missionaries, both male and female, successfully at work seeking out the lost. The Committee earnestly appeal to every reader of this Magazine who has not hitherto assisted in this work to render help, by donations or subscriptions. Surely it will be a source of pleasure to those who are about leaving their homes to enjoy those changes of scene and air which the season of the year suggests, and the providence of God permits, to know that before going they have done what they can to save some poor outcast females from ruin in time and in eternity.

HENRY VINCENT, ESQ.

Will deliver his Popular Lecture,

"OUR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN,"

In aid of the funds of this Institution, in the

MUSIC HALL, STORE STREET,

BEDFORD SQUARE,

On FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 2nd.

Chair to be taken at Eight o'clock.

ADMISSION, ONE SHILLING.

Subscriptions and donations will be thankfully received by

Messrs. Bosanquet & Co., Bankers, 73, Lombard Street, E.C.

Mr. F. Nicholls, 14, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C.

Mr. E. W. Thomas, Secretary, 200, Euston Road, Euston Square, N.W.

The Committee will be very thankful to ladies who will undertake to collect small sums by collecting cards in aid of the funds. Last year nearly £60 was raised by this means.

Papers, Original and Selected.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS, EDUCATIONAL COMMISSIONERS, AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.

THE discussion on Ragged Schools arising out of the Report of the Royal Commissioners on Education has for some time engaged the public press of all shades and parties, not only of the metropolis, but throughout the provinces; and its echo is beginning to be heard from the colonies. The public platform, too, has gone largely into the question, and opinions, *pro* and *con*, have been freely expressed. The culminating point of interest in the discussion was in the House of Lords on Monday, May 13th, 1861, when the Earl of Shaftesbury moved "for the evidence on which all that part of the Report of the Education Commissioners which relates to Ragged Schools is founded." This motion was followed by a speech that indicated the speaker to be thoroughly in earnest, and felt from his heart every word he uttered. In substance, the speech was similar to the one recorded in our last number, pages 138—143.

In Exeter Hall the speech was an oration of surpassing eloquence, and suitable to the occasion, the place, and circumstances. Then the speaker had to address a popular assembly of about 5,000 persons; to speak loud enough to make all hear; and warmly enough to make all participate in the indignation he felt. In the House of Lords his speech was marked with that dignity of manner that comported with the place and the persons to whom it was addressed; at the same time with all that decision of tone and emphasis which characterise a man in earnest, and with a soul thoroughly imbued with the soundness of a good cause which had been unjustly attacked and denounced. Thanks to the liberties of England, and the Christianity she possesses, for such a noble defence of the humble and despised system of Ragged Schools. There is no other Senate throughout Europe where we could have witnessed a spectacle resembling that of Lord Shaftesbury addressing the great lineage of the realm on behalf of a similar Christian and voluntary effort. We have lately heard something of the emancipation of the Russian serfs, and all honour to an enlightened

Czar for influence so nobly wielded; but he is far a-head of his nobles, and but tamely, if at all, supported by them. Not in any of the most enlightened Senates of Europe could such a scene be witnessed as that to which we have referred. In Westminster alone, in the great Painted Chamber, amid the coroneted and ermined, could the poor, neglected, friendless child; the labour-oppressed factory-hand; the stunted, choked chimney-sweep; the crook-backed, overworked, juvenile miners, find an advocate like Lord Shaftesbury. The real friends of Ragged Schools are laid under deep obligation to that nobleman for the stand he took on behalf of *their* Institutions. He fought *their* battle in high places single-handed. There were those that we could name, who hold a position in those high places, that, had they come forward to sustain him in the conflict, would only have been consistent with their former efforts in support of the same cause; but they were silent on that memorable occasion. The honour, therefore, of the contest and of the advantages resulting therefrom are undivided.

The Duke of Newcastle replied in a speech of great length, dwelling much on reports he had read in newspapers, respecting the speech of Lord Shaftesbury as delivered in Exeter Hall; and to a correspondence arising out of it, which had been made public. The Duke passed an eulogium on the Royal Commission, of which he was a member, and proceeded to meet the various points of the Earl's speech; and on one occasion, in a manner that seemed so definite and convincing as really to lead some Ragged School friends who heard him to conclude that the Duke had a sure footing for his refutation. Lord Shaftesbury had referred to a communication forwarded to the Commissioners by the Secretary of the Ragged School Union, and which furnished full particulars of the Schools in London; and that the Report of the Commissioners did not contain the particulars so furnished, and consequently the statistics of Ragged Schools, as given in their Report, were not accurate. The Duke met this by holding up a sheet of paper, and as he shook it, said with emphasis, "*Here is Mr. Gent's letter, the Secretary of the Ragged School Union; and if the Report is incorrect in reference to the statistics of Ragged Schools, the Secretary of the Ragged School Union is alone responsible for the inaccuracy, and not the Commissioners; for it was from him the returns were obtained.*" This was the statement of the Duke of Newcastle, a Cabinet Minister, and Chairman of the Royal Commission on Education; and, as a matter of course, made on

some minds a deep impression that, after all, on Mr. Gent rested the blame for the errors of the Report—at least the statistical portions of it. This was only shifting the blame, if error existed, and not proving the accuracy of the printed Report. It was remarkable that if Mr. Gent's letter, so held up to view, was such a clear refutation of the statement of Lord Shaftesbury, that no portion of it was read on the occasion; and instead of quoting from that document, the Duke immediately proceeded to quote from a Report of the Ragged School Union of two years later date than the letter. We have before us the draft copy of Mr. Gent's letter sent to the Commissioners, as well as the Report of the Commissioners, which the Duke so clearly stated was made up from the returns sent by Mr. Gent. We can now easily compare these documents, and see how far they support each other.

	Commissioners' Report for England & Wales.		Mr. Gent's Letter for London only.		*
	Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars on Books.	Number of Schools.	Number of Scholars in attendance	Number of Scholars on the Books of the London Ragged Schools.
Sunday Ragged Schools.....	356	23,157	307	20,481	25,600
Day Ragged Schools	192	20,909	157	14,689	18,350
Evening Ragged Schools ...	14	707	194	8,694	10,860

Be it observed, that Mr. Gent's figures relate to *average attendance*, and the Commissioners' refer to the number of names of scholars *on the books*. There is generally one-fourth more children on the books than in attendance, so that Mr. Gent's scholars, to be on the same basis as to numbers with the Commissioners', should be increased one-fourth. So corrected, the numbers would stand as in the added column.* This comparison makes its own statement, which clearly supports Lord Shaftesbury's assertion respecting the inaccuracies of the Report; and, we think, in no degree justifies the Duke of Newcastle in his disingenuous effort to shift the blame for those inaccuracies from the Commissioners to Mr. Gent.

The Duke by no means improved his position by stating, when pressed for an explanation respecting the large discrepancy of the statistics of the Evening Schools, that "the Evening Schools reported on by the Secretary of the Ragged School Union were passed over because they were attended by *adults*, whereas the business of the Commission was to inquire only into the education of juveniles." The Duke did not define at what age the juvenile

became an adult; but the Secretary's letter, sent to the Commissioners, will help us as to the ages of the scholars attending the London Ragged Schools in 1858, and then our readers will judge how far the Duke is right on this point. The following questions were put by the Commissioners, and the answers were given by Mr. Gent:—

"What is the average age of children in—

(*a*) The Day Schools?—Eight years and a half.
(*b*) The Sunday Schools?—Ten years.
(*c*) The Sunday Evening Schools?—Thirteen years.
(*d*) The Week Night Schools?—Twelve years."

It is thus clear that by some unfortunate circumstance, certain papers in the possession of the Commissioners were overlooked, or their value at the time of examination not appreciated, and therefore put aside: hence the omissions and consequent inaccuracies of the Commissioners' Report. Commissioners can no more lay claim to infallibility than other erring men; and when the error is pointed out, surely it is more in accordance with dignity to acknowledge it, and put it right, than it can be to hold to the error till it can be retained no longer, and then try to throw the blame on any scapegoat that may be most ready to hand.

On Tuesday, June 11th, Lord Shaftesbury renewed the discussion in the House of Lords, when he moved for "a return of all witnesses who, either orally or by documents, gave evidence in respect of Ragged Schools in the metropolis to the Central and Assistant Commissioners, and the names, also, of the schools therein visited by any of them; and the same, also, for the towns of Manchester and Liverpool." Referring to the last-named place, Lord Shaftesbury said on this occasion: "In page 603 of the Appendix to the Report, the number of Ragged Schools in the whole of Lancashire was, in 1858, only 6, and the number of scholars 927, whereas the fact is, that in Liverpool alone there were in the last year 46 schools, the average attendance at which amounted to 5,822. I may add that Mr. Gillespie, of the Ragged School Union of Liverpool, with whom I communicated upon the subject, wrote to me to say that he had himself sent to the Commissioners a copy of a Report containing a statement to that effect. There is no notice, however, in the Report of Mr. Gillespie's figures. They are altogether omitted—his name is not even mentioned." The Duke of Newcastle's reply to this was, "I am confident, from the information

I have, that Mr. Gillespie did not make these returns, and that all that were received from Liverpool were inserted in the Report. I must leave it to Mr. Gillespie to explain the statement that he has made. * * * The Commissioners were anxious to make the best statement they could for everybody, even when the parties had neglected their own interests. Having no returns from Lancashire, they were therefore obliged to avail themselves of any knowledge they could obtain, and all they did get was the census of 1851. But these returns were, of course, incomplete. The blame entirely rested on the promoters of Ragged Schools, who were the best parties to furnish the required information."

Fortunately, Mr. Gillespie is in a position to prove that the blame so readily cast upon him he does not deserve. Two days after the Duke's speech, the Committee of the Liverpool Ragged School Union met, when Mr. Gillespie brought the subject under their notice, and read from their minutes of October, 1858, the correspondence between the Superintendent and the Education Commissioners. It is therefore clear there were communications at that time. A letter was prepared and sent to the Duke, stating facts and giving dates. Whether the Duke, on the receipt of this, made search and found the missing documents or not we do not know, but in reply to this letter the Duke exonerates Mr. Gillespie from the blame he had so readily and unjustly cast upon him.

That some of the Commissioners have become enlightened on the subject, and value, of voluntary education is becoming apparent. Their personal inspection brought them in contact with results worked out by Ragged Schools as supported and conducted by voluntary friends, and these results are beginning to be better understood and appreciated now, after much public discussion, than at the time of the inspection. One of the Assistant Commissioners, whose Report was, next to Mr. Cumin's, the most inimical to Ragged Schools, and therefore freely quoted from by the Duke of Newcastle, made this statement on the 16th of June last, on the platform of a London Ragged School. "He, for one, entered upon his examination as an Assistant Commissioner of Education with somewhat a bias in favour of compulsory education; he was in favour of levying a rate in aid for such a purpose; *but he rose from that investigation, which had occupied him six months, a complete convert to the inestimable value of voluntary education, and of voluntary efforts to promote education, as contrasted with any system of Government aid, however applied.*"

That this gentleman's views have undergone a still greater change than thus expressed will be apparent when we put two sentences of his side by side, one from the Report he furnished to the Educational Commissioners, and the other from the speech delivered at the last annual meeting of the Lamb and Flag Ragged School. About eighteen months intervened between the utterance of the two passages:—

Page 384 of 3rd vol. of Commissioners' Report, Mr. Wilkinson wrote, under date of 1st Oct., 1859:—

"The short result of my inquiry upon this branch of my instruction (Ragged Schools) is, that in my district Ragged Schools do not sufficiently retain the distinctive features with which they were originally instituted, and that thus, while they give instruction to those who desire to receive, and often use it for a bad purpose, they do not supply a moral and mental education to those who most want it."

At the Lamb and Flag meeting, on June 16th, 1861, Mr. Wilkinson is reported by the short-hand writer as saying:—

"It must not be supposed that he spoke with any official authority whatever; but he did say, advisedly, that as far as his individual experience had enabled him to give an opinion worthy of their entertaining, that if the result of that Commission, however much it might have attempted, was to throw any damp whatever upon the Ragged School movement in this country, it would be the most disastrous day for the cause of education in England which had ever dawned upon it."

Could these passages have the same origin?

If "a moral and mental education be not given to those who most want it" by the schools professing to impart it to that very class, and to no other, then the only just conclusion that could be arrived at is, that the closing of such schools, instead of being "disastrous," would be a boon to society. On the other hand, if the results worked out by these schools be so beneficial that the day that damped the movement "would be the most disastrous day for the cause of education in England which had ever dawned upon it," then the only just inference that can be drawn is, that the Report that condemned them is a libel.

We wish not to press too hardly upon one who publicly professes himself a convert, and who at the time of writing his Report was so partially enlightened that he only saw "men as trees, walking," *but now sees* "every man clearly;" yet we must say, it is a very serious matter for the Government to send forth gentlemen endowed with powers derived from the Queen's Commission, to make inquiries into matters the first principles of which they evidently have to learn, and then to take the Reports so furnished as the basis for damaging a Christian effort of inestimable value, supported by the

voluntary contributions of a Christian public, and worked by the voluntary labours of a self-denying body of Christian men and women.

THE NEW LAMB AND FLAG RAGGED SCHOOLS.

We call the Lamb and Flag Ragged Schools *new*, not because they have just begun their career of labour, for they have already passed through more than two apprenticeships of seven years each, and have, by their labour during that period, worn out the premises first rented and adapted for Ragged School purposes. The Lamb and Flag Schools are therefore anything but new; they are, in fact, among the earliest schools that entered on the work of evangelising the poor of London, some seventeen years since. The locality of these schools is just a stone's throw from the south side of the Middlesex Session House, which our grandfathers would have called "Hick's Hall." This only gives an idea of the part of London in which the schools are situate; but the moral, or rather the immoral, character of the locality cannot be understood by any description that pen can put to paper. Nothing short of a personal inspection of the series of courts, lanes, and blind alleys, and a visit to the houses in them, and conversation with the inmates, will produce a mental photograph of the neighbourhood of which the Lamb and Flag Schools are the centre. Royal Commissions and Select Committees of the House of Commons may sit in Westminster, and take evidence and report upon such localities, and the need there is to apply a remedy; but until they visit the spots themselves, venture up the rookeries at the risk of health, and up the rickety staircases at the risk of life, as Lord Shaftesbury has done, in all parts of London, and at all hours of day and night, they will never be able to pronounce an opinion at all commensurate with the existence of the evil. Respecting this neighbourhood, Lord Shaftesbury, in the House of Lords, on February 28th, 1861, ventured upon a description, and said:—"In 16 courts, I found 173 houses, having 586 rooms in all, and in them 586 families. The number of persons was 3,754, being an average of 6½ to a room. The rooms were from 15 feet by 12 feet, to 9 feet by 9 feet. They were low, dark, dismal, and dirty; so low, indeed, that it was with difficulty I could stand upright in them. In these rooms I found five, six, seven, eight, and even nine persons living." This description relates to the houses, their overcrowded state, unsuitableness for human dwellings, and dirty condition. The spot has been visited by others; and one among them thus describes one of the approaches to these houses:—"The entrance to the court is two feet wide,—a long, narrow slit in the wall, half paved, with a gutter which constantly trickles with sewage. It is worse than anything in Whitechapel or Bethnal Green. The rooms are dustbins, anything but dwelling-places. The women are masculine in appearance; children make faces at you; repulsive men smoke down upon you from the holes that serve for windows; and a spreading heap of wet muddy vegetable refuse lying in an open spot, called the 'Square,' was regarded like part of old William

Sanderson's freehold. Such a place as this, with its old herring casks standing at dark doors, its rags hanging across from house to house, and its swarthy defenders, would make a very telling picture upon canvas."

And can such be the present state of a locality, after sixteen years' Christian effort to improve and evangelise the inhabitants? We have reason to know, from our frequent visits to the neighbourhood, that the report of Lord Shaftesbury and others is not overstated. Bad, however, as is the spot at the present time, it *was* far worse.

If it be asked what are the moral, religious, and educational influences brought to bear against this stronghold of ignorance, vice, and depravity, the reply is, that with the exception of the London City Mission, the Clerkenwell Lamb and Flag Ragged School, in its varied operations, is the only Institution in the district whose influences are directly antagonistic to the moral and social evils by which they are surrounded.

If it be further asked, What is the character of those operations? we answer,—

1. Three Daily Schools for

Boys,
Girls, and
Infants,

each under a distinct teacher. 359 children belong to these schools, and 255 are in daily average attendance.

2. Two Evening Schools, under paid and voluntary teachers, with 184 boys and girls unable to attend a Day School; of these, 120 are in average attendance.

3. Sunday Schools, conducted three times on that day by voluntary teachers only. These schools form a golden link of this chain of educational efforts. It concentrates the Daily, Infant, and Week Evening School in one, and by example, as well as precept, they are collectively taught to "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," and further instructed in that wisdom which is "profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, as well as that which is to come."

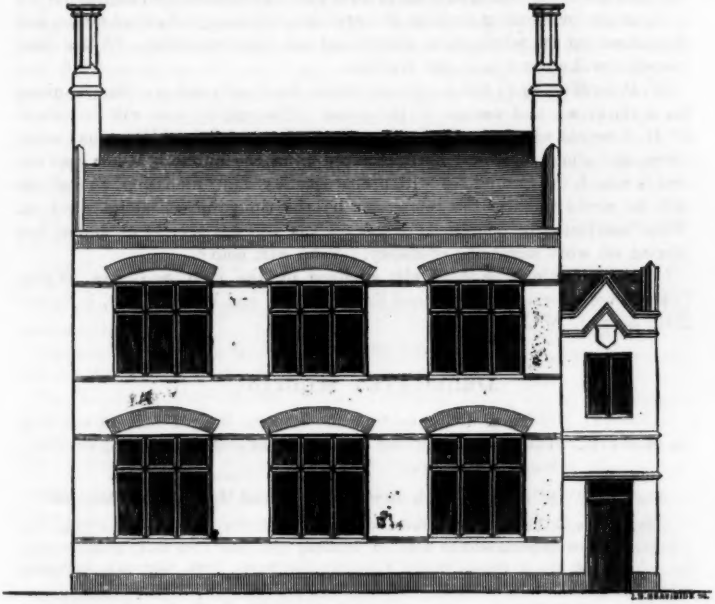
4. A Mothers' Meeting, at which the mothers of the children, and others, not only receive instruction and assistance in making and repairing clothing, but also the higher advantages of counsel and caution in matters relative to their eternal welfare. In connection with this Meeting there is a Shoe Fund, for receiving deposits for the purchase of boots and shoes.

5.—A Maternity and Sick Relief Society, for visiting homes and rendering relief in the hour of need and sickness, never forgetting to direct the patient to the Balm of Gilead and to the soul's Physician.

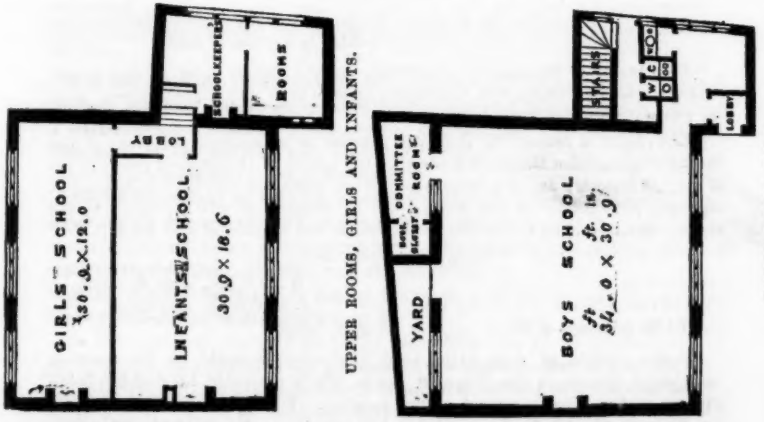
6. A Clothing Club, by means of which the children by their own efforts, as much as by their teachers, assume a comparatively respectable appearance. 100 of the children joined the Club, who, during the last year, received out of it 276 garments and 102 pairs of boots or shoes.

Various other efforts are made for meeting the necessities of the place, and bringing a moral and religious influence to bear upon the inhabitants, such as a Ragged Church, Popular Lectures, Old Scholars' Meetings, Prayer Meet-

ings, Excursions a little way into the country in summer time, and a Dinner at Christmas. These are among the means used for acquiring an influence



ELEVATION.



among these people and their children. These operations are much retarded, and the health of the teachers and friends suffer, from the present cramped,

low, and confined nature of the building in which they are carried on. They have served for sixteen years, but the time has arrived when it would be unwise and unsafe to continue their further use. Preliminary arrangements are being made for securing on lease the premises adjoining the school-house, and reconstructing the whole on an economical and healthy footing. When completed, it will appear as in our woodcut.

W. P. Griffith, Esq., F.S.A., the Architect, has kindly and gratuitously given his services as a donation to the cause. The entire cost will be about £600; towards which the Committee of the Ragged School Union has voted £100, and about £150 has been received from the public. When half the cost is raised, the Committee will prepare to lay the foundation, and efforts will be made to raise the remainder by the time the top stone is put on. When complete, the operations of the schools will not only be extended, but carried on with increasing efficiency. Who will help?

Contributions will be thankfully received by the Hon. Sec., Mr. Watts, 7, Birchmore Terrace, Hampstead Road, N.W.; and by Mr. Gent, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

DELEGATES' MEETING.

A SPECIAL Meeting of Delegates from the London Ragged Schools was held on June 11th. The following circular was issued, calling that meeting:—

"RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,
"1, *Exeter Hall, Strand, London, June 5th*, 1861.

"DEAR SIR,—We have to inform you that a Meeting of Delegates from the London Ragged Schools will be held on Tuesday next, the 11th inst., at the Refuge School-room, 8, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields. Tea will be provided at 6·15 p.m., and the Earl of Shaftesbury will take the Chair at 7 o'clock precisely.

"The attention of the Delegates will be called to the subject now occupying the attention of a Committee of the House of Commons, viz.:—

"'*To inquire how the Education of the destitute and neglected children may be most efficiently and economically assisted by any public funds.*'

"The Committee was appointed yesterday, and will without delay proceed to take evidence upon the subject, and, if possible, agree to their Report, and present it to the present Session of Parliament.

"The object of calling the Delegates together is to ascertain the views of the friends of the London Ragged Schools upon the subject of Government grants in aid of Ragged Schools; and it is hoped that the two gentlemen that may be deputed to represent your school on the occasion will be prepared to give expression to the views entertained upon the subject by the friends and teachers of your school.

"We are, yours very truly,

"W. LOCKE, *Hon. Secretary.*
"J. G. GENT, *Secretary.*

"*To the Secretary of the Ragged School.*"

On the evening of June 11th, Lord Shaftesbury brought on the question of Ragged Schools in the House of Lords, which prevented his lordship being present at the commencement of the meeting. During the absence of Lord Shaftesbury, Mr. W. Locke presided. After singing and prayer, Mr. W. Locke

introduced the subject for the evening, and stated that, as evidence was now being taken before a Parliamentary Committee upon Government grants to Ragged Schools, the Committee wished to ascertain the opinions of the various Ragged Schools in connection with them upon the subject. He had already given his evidence,* and thought he had expressed their opinions when he stated that the majority were against grants to non-industrial Ragged Schools in general, and certainly if conditions were attached to them which would in any way hinder the religious teaching as now carried on, or interfere with free action.

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* The following were the questions put to him upon this point by Sir S. Northcote :—

No. 69.—As a matter of fact, I believe the schools connected with your Union do not apply for Government assistance, do they?

Answer.—No, they do not. The managers of them do not seem to think it would assist them to have any Government interference.

No. 70.—Upon what principle is it that they decline to apply for Government assistance?

Answer.—They seem to think that it would interfere with the religious teaching, and would cramp the efforts of our voluntary teachers.

No. 71.—Can you say whether that is the universal feeling among the managers of those schools, or is there a difference of opinion on the subject?

Answer.—In our London Ragged Schools we are almost unanimous in the opinion that we would be just as well without any Government interference.

This opinion is repeated in Answers Nos. 89 and 90, where Mr. Locke adds—

"I think voluntary support one of the most essential elements of our success, and I have thought so all along. It has been rather a missionary and religious movement than a secular one."

Again, in answer to Mr. Lowe—

No. 247.—So that, upon the whole, you conclude you are better without Government aid?

Answer.—Yes, speaking of the simple Ragged School—not speaking of the Refuges.

The Report of the Commissioners on Education did not do justice to Ragged Schools, and Sir S. Northcote, urged by country friends of Ragged Schools, obtained a Parliamentary Committee to take further evidence, and "to inquire how the Education of the destitute and neglected children may be most efficiently and economically assisted by any public funds."

Mr. Locke thought the following questions would give a basis for discussion, and draw out the opinions of the Delegates, but it was not desired that any distinct resolution should be adopted that evening, as the matter would require calm and careful consideration. He then read the following :—

1. Do you find a difficulty in raising money for your schools, and do you need more pecuniary help than you now have?

2. If a plan were organised for aiding your efforts by a *parish* or *county* rate, or in some other way, to be given in proportion to the amount raised by your own Committee, without interfering at all with your religious teaching and voluntary agency, would you be disposed to take advantage of it? or do you prefer relying entirely on voluntary contributions?

The friends present in connection with Refuges spoke in favour of receiving Government grants, but the friends who spoke in relation to Ragged Schools considered that Government grants would prove inimical to the religious and missionary character of those institutions. While the subject was under consideration, Lord Shaftesbury arrived, and was received with great applause, the Delegates all standing.

The chair being taken by his lordship, the discussion continued for some time, and then, at the general request of the meeting, the noble chairman expressed his opinion upon the whole question, but dwelling upon the results that would be inevitably worked out by the schools' acceptance of State aid.

"He begged them to consider the migratory character of the population in some of the localities of London; the short period that many of the children remained in the school; time enough to produce permanent religious impressions, hallowing the whole life, but not time enough to produce any very appreciable effect in the way of secular education. His Lordship said—

"Your paid teachers and your masters, for the most part characterised by earnestness, truth, piety, and a thorough knowledge and love of their children, presenting in themselves the most extraordinary combination of the teacher and the missionary; the best of them, fitted beyond all expression for the duties assigned them, would not stand an examination before the Privy Council Inspectors. No Privy Council can produce such masters as you have. Emigration, the safest mode by far in which to receive Government aid; but success of plan contingent upon status required, and indulgence of Inspectors. Some of the best charactered youths, and most fitted by constitution for emigration, might be rejected.

"Let it get into the public mind that you can get what assistance you require from Government, voluntary subscriptions will rapidly fall off. The voluntary system is the only system upon which your work can be successfully conducted. Government will interfere, either directly or indirectly, with the appointment of your teachers—there lies the mischief. He would not accept £10,000 from the Government, even if it were offered him without conditions. If Government knew that any of us were hankering after these flesh-pots, they would probably relax their conditions to catch the unwary birds—they would sprinkle some Government salt upon their tails; let us unitedly resist their offer. The manifest tendency of the Government in this matter, as appears from the scope of the Commissioners' Report, is to relieve the Consolidated Fund of the burden of this Education Grant; to shift the responsibility from the shoulders of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to parochial vestries and local boards; hence another apple of discord—a new church-rate controversy.

"Gentlemen, I counsel union in this matter."

The subject was then further discussed, and afterwards a motion was moved and seconded on behalf of the Refuges, with a view to obtaining Government aid; to which an amendment was moved and seconded, the object of which was, that the Ragged School movement should be kept free from the interference of the

3. Do you think that the latter—that is, *voluntary subscriptions*—are sufficient to accomplish all that is doing and still needs to be done for the neglected and destitute children of this metropolis without aid from Government, the parish, or any other public source?

Government. It being seen that the meeting would not entertain the motion, it was withdrawn, and the amendment fell to the ground. The discussion was revived by another motion, in part favouring the acceptance of Government money; but not meeting with approval, it was altered into the following:—

> "That it is the opinion of this Meeting that, considering the missionary character of the London Ragged Schools, we decline Government aid on any consideration whatever."

On Lord Shaftesbury putting it to the meeting, nearly all were in its favour on the "contrary," being put, three hands were held up against the motion.

This meeting was attended by about 120 gentlemen from schools in all parts of the metropolis.

The meeting closed by a short prayer.

SCHOLARS' PRIZES.

After due consideration of the subject by the Committee of the Ragged School Union for awarding prizes to scholars for remaining in situations at least twelve months in one place, with good character, they have agreed upon the conditions upon which the prizes for the current year will be awarded. We give the following full details, in the form in which the application papers will be issued in December next, that our friends may be prepared by the close of the year with completed lists of candidates really coming within the conditions:

SCHOLARS' PRIZES.—CHRISTMAS, 1861.

The Committee of the Ragged School Union, being desirous to encourage industry and diligence in all who have passed through the schools in connection with them, have again decided on giving a Prize to young persons who have kept their situations with good character for at least twelve months, up to December 25th, 1861, and coming within the following conditions, viz.:—

1. That the candidates for these Prizes must be over twelve and under seventeen years of age, and must have attended the Ragged School giving the recommendation at least six months previous to entering his or her first situation.
2. That those scholars who have remained in one place for twelve months, ending Dec. 25, 1861, and have not before received a Money Prize, will be entitled to a Prize of Seven Shillings and Sixpence, as well as a Card, provided the Committee of the School recommending the scholar will pay Two Shillings and Sixpence of that sum. That if any scholar had kept his or her place for twelve months, but left it before Christmas for another, and which was entered within a fortnight after leaving the other, he or she shall be entitled to his or her Prize, provided he or she be in this second place on December 25th, 1861.
3. That those scholars who have received a Money Prize previously, and are again recommended (in accordance with Rule 2) for further service to December 25th, 1861, will be entitled to a Prize Card.

4. That all candidates must have been regular in attendance at the Ragged or other Sunday School for the period for which they are recommended. This rule does not apply to those who are employed as domestic servants.

5. Apprentices, Shoe-blacks, Occasional Labourers, and Scholars employed by their relatives, as well as those earning more than Ten Shillings per week, will be ineligible for the Prizes.

. Certificates must be furnished by the employers and school authorities, to show that the previous conditions have been complied with, and that good conduct has been continued to December 25th, 1861.

The Prizes may be given in Books, Clothes, or otherwise, as the Committee of the School may determine.

The following queries must be fully answered, and the Certificates duly filled up and signed.

All applications for the Prizes must be made by the Committee of the School to which the scholar belonged, and the forms properly filled up to be sent to Mr. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, not later than the 16th of January, 1861.

W. LOCKE, *Hon. Secretary.*
J. G. GENT, *Secretary.*

1, *Exeter Hall, June*, 1861.

1. The School Address.....

2. The Candidate's Name in full.....

3. Age last birthday .....

4. How long did the Candidate attend the Ragged School *before obtaining his or her first situation?*.....

5. Where employed? .....

6. What is the employment? .....

7. Date of entering the situation held at Christmas, 1861 .....

8. Date of entering former situation (if any) { .... } and of leaving it* { .... }

9. The wages on taking the situation £ : *s.* *d.* and at present time £ : *s.* *d.*

10. Has the Candidate regularly attended the School on Sundays to the present time? .....

11. Has the Candidate received a Prize in any former year? .....

12. Is the Candidate an Apprentice? ..... or employed as a Shoe-black?.....

13. Is the Candidate an Occasional Labourer?..... or employed by a Relative? .....

14. Has the Candidate a Father and Mother living?.....

Certificate to be signed by the Employer,* in the presence of an accredited Agent of the Ragged School.

I hereby certify that ..... *has been in my constant employ for a period of* ..... *months, ending on the* ..... *day of* ..... 1861, *and during that period gave satisfaction.*

..... *Employer.*

..... *Employer's Address.*

Signed in my presence,

..... *Name.* } *The accredited Agent of the Ragged School.*

..... *Address.* }

Certificate to be signed by the Superintendent of the Sunday School the Candidate attended at the time of making this application.

I hereby certify that ..... *has regularly attended the Sunday School in* ..... *for a period of* ..... *months, ending this* ..... *day of* ..... 1861.

..... *Name.* } *Superintendent of* ..... *Sunday School.*

..... *Address.* }

Certificate to be signed by the Superintendent and Secretary of the Ragged School on behalf of the Committee recommending the Candidate.

We hereby certify that the whole of the particulars here supplied are, to the best of our belief, perfectly correct, and we recommend ..... *as coming within the foregoing conditions, and deserving of the benefit that may be conferred, as above proposed, by the Committee of the Ragged School Union.*

..... *Name,* } *Secretary.*

..... *Private Address,* }

..... *Name,* } *Superintendent.*

..... *Private Address.* }

To the Secretaries of the Ragged School Union.

*** Should the space to either of the above queries not be sufficient, the back of this paper may be used for the additional particulars.

* This Certificate is to be signed by the person in whose employ the Candidate was at Christmas 1861: the other employers, if any, to furnish

Separate Certificates, which must be affixed to the back of this Paper,

and the dates of entering and leaving their former situations accurately given in the above (*) spaces.

Should this Paper be returned without being fully and accurately filled up and duly signed, the Candidate will lose the benefit that might otherwise arise from this application.

This Paper must on no consideration be placed in the hands of the Candidate.

RAGGED SCHOOLS *versus* ROYAL COMMISSIONERS.

WHILE an inquiry is going on before a Committee of the House of Commons, as to the necessity and results of Ragged Schools, and while the unfavourable conclusions of the Royal Commissioners on these Institutions are fresh in the minds of our readers, it may not be amiss to quote a few passages from persons of experience and authority on the subject, who gave their testimony in our favour. Some in the evidence taken by the Commissioners (though not quoted in their Report); some from inspectors appointed by Government, as published in the Privy Council Reports for 1860-1; and some from other sources. They are given without comment, and speak for themselves:—

Mr. Tufnell (who has had more experience in Ragged Schools than most persons) says:—

"They are of great utility in getting children together."

"That many children will get no education at all unless they get it there."

"That the Ragged School assists the National School by bringing children up to the point that they can enter there."

He also says,

"That the Ragged School Union have always been very desirous to exclude those who should attend the National School;" and speaks of good done by emigration and prizes in a laudatory manner, at page 409 of the *3rd Vol. of Evidence.*

Dr. Hodgson's Report, page 519, says:—

"Where Evening Ragged Schools exist they are well attended, especially in the cold dark nights of winter, when shelter and warmth are so needful."

Again,

"The value of such Schools is not to be judged of by the amount of knowledge imparted, or even of power given to write and cypher, but by their effect in taming, and softening, and cleansing, through sympathy and kindness, those young victims of others wrong-doing; of making them feel that they are cared for, that they are not wholly outcasts, ever ordered to move on; and that even for them an honest and creditable, if laborious, future may be in store. I gave a summary of the last Annual Report of the Ragged School Union, which presents a very encouraging account of progress. Now that the Reformatories have been organised, it is to be hoped that Ragged Schools, under some other name, will also be reduced to system. It does, indeed, seem strange that the resources of the State should be lavished on those who are comparatively well able to provide for their children's training, and that the really destitute classes should be abandoned to voluntary charity."—*3rd Vol. of Evidence, page* 539.

At the same place Dr. H. speaks most warmly of our Penny Banks.

Dr. Woodford, at page 218 of Privy Council Report on Education for 1860-1, says, in regard to the Scotch Industrial Ragged Schools:—

"The discipline and moral influence maintained in these schools appeared to be exceedingly well calculated to benefit the special class of scholars."

"Very naturally the Scriptures are more read in them all than in ordinary schools, and the progress of the children in Scripture knowledge is proportionally great for

their time at school, and their attainments otherwise. In one of them it is scarcely possible to name a leading doctrine, a moral duty, or a prominent or remarkable fact, that the first class do not instantly turn up passages of Scripture for."

"It has been universally admitted that these schools have been doing a vast amount of good to the community. The disappearance of vagrant boys and girls from the streets, which they were the first means, and may still be the chief means of procuring, was a great and palpable relief, at least for the time being. Now there are reliable facts to show that a large number of the children that they have rescued, trained, and sent out, have proved good and productive members of society."

"Thus, in every respect, these schools have been converting evil into good."

"In all large towns . . . . there are many children who, owing to the vagrant habits of their parents, have no domicile but the distant one of their birth, to which they will not return, and from which, if they are sent to it, they immediately come back. It is for the vagrant children of these, rapidly becoming criminals, that the Ragged Schools were the saving asylums, and seem still the only provision."

"It is only the local parties who can form a right judgment of the extent to which Ragged Schools are necessary, and if for this necessity they have to subscribe, they are not likely to provide thus for children that are provided for otherwise."

Again, Mr. Middleton, reporting of Aberdeen and neighbourhood, so famous for Ragged Schools, says, page 239 :—

"With this institution for the restoration of youthful criminals to an honest life, and the many other institutions designed to save the young, verging on crime, from falling into it, Aberdeen has well earned the fame of reformatory exertion. Indeed, juvenile beggars seem to be extinct here. It is not certain, I believe, that any other city in the empire is so distinguished and successful in its reformatory action on the young."

And Mr. Ruddoch, Inspector of Parochial Union Schools, in the South West of England, says at page 501 :—

"I have particularly remarked in the Ragged and Industrial Schools the great care taken by the several committees to confine the benefits of these schools to the class of children for whom they were instituted. The lists are weeded by periodical revisions, and it is my conviction that, so far as the schools I have visited are concerned, very few of the children in them would obtain any education or training whatever were it not for their existence."

"The appearance and clothing of the children betoken that they are the Arabs of the street, withdrawn from vagabondage and petty pilfering and placed under some degree of healthy control and moral influence. The same class of children are to be found not in the populous cities only, but also in the smaller towns and even in the larger country villages."

And now see what the leading journal said as to the necessity of Ragged Schools in their leading article of May 17, 1861 :—

"As there are and always will be drunken and dissolute parents, and, therefore, neglected children, so there always will be an opening for the sort of schools which Lord Shaftesbury has taken under his wing. It is a necessary, a great, and a noble work; and we should be sorry to see it even damned with faint praise, much more the object of cold criticism or avowed suspicion. *After all that has been said and done, we have only to walk half-a-mile anywhere in the streets, and we may see the living justification of Ragged Schools."—Times, May 17th,* 1861.

And what did Lord John Russell say, also, in the House of Commons, on 28th May last:—

"I believe that where these Ragged Schools are conducted by persons who are careful in what they are about, and who take precautions as regards the means of the parents, they afford an education to children who would not otherwise attend any school at all."—*Lord John Russell, House of Commons, May 28th.*

These are only a few of the quotations that could be given in favour of the work we have in hand; our readers are well aware of many others. But reverting to the pending inquiry as to how the education of neglected and destitute children can be assisted from any public fund, we are much mistaken if the evidence will not establish incontrovertibly that there does exist a large class of children (outsiders or outlaws, as we may call them) that do not, or cannot, or will not go to any school except a Ragged School; and that the latter tends to place such children in a better position than they were before, either by drafting them to a better school, or so improving their condition that they are fit for some situation, or disposed for better influences than they were when found; and, moreover, that Ragged Schools do effect, with all their imperfections, a large amount of practical good to the community, and do deserve public sympathy and support, inasmuch as they do a public good and save a large amount of public money.

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Sir S. Northcote, on May 28th, introduced the subject of Ragged Schools to the House of Commons, stating he can prove the existence of the class of children for which Ragged Schools were established to benefit, and that valuable results have followed the establishment of these schools, and moved for a Select Committee "to inquire how the funds voted by Parliament for the promotion of National Education might be most efficiently and most economically applied in the case of neglected and destitute children."

Mr. Lowe objected to the form of this instruction, but not to the appointment of a Committee, if the instruction be modified. He suggested the instruction to be "To inquire how the education of destitute and neglected children may be most efficiently and economically assisted by any public fund."

This being approved by Sir Stafford Northcote, it was adopted, and a Committee appointed, consisting of Sir Stafford Northcote, Mr. Lowe, Sir John Pakington, Mr. Massey, Mr. Adderley, Mr. Hanbury, Mr. Cave, Mr. Black, Mr. Liddell, Sir James Graham, Sir Baldwin Leighton, Mr. Henry Austin Bruce, Mr. Pease, and the O'Conor Don.

This Committee have issued to the schools the following list of questions, to be answered by the school authorities and to be returned, viz.:—

1. What is the name of your school?
2. How long has it been in existence?
3. Do you feed, clothe, or lodge the children, or any of them?

4. What is the present number of boys and girls upon the books, and what are the highest and lowest ages?

5. For how many hours a week is the school open?

6. What is the average attendance of the children?

7. Is the school open in the evening; and what proportion of the children attend both in the morning and the evening?

8. How many of the children are known to have attended pay schools?

9. How many are known to be the children of persons in the receipt of parochial relief, or children who have lost both parents?

10. How many are known to have been convicted, or brought before magistrates?

11. What steps are taken to guard against the admission of children who might be sent to pay, or other schools?

12. What steps are taken for enforcing regular attendance, cleanliness, and order?

13. Are there any institutions, such as Savings' Banks, or Clothing Clubs, &c., connected with the school?

14. Can you give, in a statistical form, any results of the school?

15. What is the instruction given in the school?

16. Is there any industrial department, and what is the nature of the instruction given in it?

17. Does the master or mistress hold a Government certificate of any kind?

18. Does the school receive any, and what assistance from the Government? If not, do you desire it?

19. What is the amount of the income of the school, and from what sources is it derived?

20. What is the amount of the expenditure? Please to distinguish between rent; salaries of teachers; food or clothing (if given); expenses of industrial department; general expenses.

The Committee commenced taking evidence on June 10th, and which was given on—

Monday, June 10th, by Mr. W. Locke and Mr. J. G. Gent, of Ragged School Union.

Thursday, June 13th, by Mr. Hytche, of the Ragged School Union, and Rev. W. Cadman.

Monday, June 17th, by Rev. W. Rogers, and Mr. Charles, of the Reformatory Union.

Thursday, June 20th, by E. C. Tufnell, Esq., Poor Law Inspector, and J Rudduck, Esq., Inspector of Schools.

Monday, June 24th, by Mr. Higginbottom and Miss Carpenter, both of Bristol.

It is not expected that this Committee will protract its labours, as it is wished to present the Report to the present session of Parliament.

The Children's Gallery.

HOSPITALITY.

One day Tommy rushed into the kitchen quite in a breeze, crying out, "Mother, mother, there is an old man down in the road sitting on a log; sha'nt I set Pompey on him?"

"Set Pompey on him!" said his sister; "what for?"

"Oh, because," answered Tommy, looking a little ashamed, "because—perhaps he'll come and eat us up."

"A foolish reason of a foolish boy," said his mother. "Go out, Esther, and see if the poor man wants anything. Perhaps he's tired with a hard day's travel among the mountains."

"Perhaps he's somebody's grandpa," said Esther. "Would you like to have a naughty boy set his dog on *your* grandpa, Tommy?"

Esther ran down the green, and peeping through the gate, saw him resting under the shade of the old oak tree. "Should you like anything?" asked Esther. "Will you please to come in and rest yourself in our kitchen."

"Thank you, chicken," said the old man, "I should be very thankful for a drink of water."

Esther scampered back to the house, laughing. "He called me chicken," said she, "and chicken will draw him some cool water from the well; yes, that chicken will, with her own little claws."

Her mother gave her the pitcher, and she drew the water from the well, and hastened with the cooling drink to the poor traveller. Pompey marches ahead, smelling the way, and Tommy slinks behind, as well he may, after harbouring such cowardly thoughts about the poor old man.

How pleased he is to see them? He is tired and dusty, for he has come a long way.

"I thank you," he said, after drinking, "I thank you. It tastes very good. Do you know what the Lord Jesus once said about a cup of cold water?"

Esther was silent.

"I will tell you. He said, 'Whosoever shall give to one of his people a cup of cold water only, in the name of a disciple, he shall in no wise lose his reward.' May the Lord himself bless you, little girl, as I am sure I do." And a happy feeling stole into the young child's bosom at the old man's words, for the blessing of the poor man, the stranger, fell upon her.

CHILDLIKE FAITH.

There is a peculiar charm in the implicit faith of childhood, when it recognises the paternal character and love of God, and that Providence which watches over all his children. Here is an illustration:—

"During one of the snow-storms of the past winter, a kind-hearted lady was importuned, by a very small boy, to allow him to clean the pavement and steps in front of her house. She thought him unequal to the task, but yielded to his entreaties, and became interested to inquire into his circumstances.

"He was, perhaps, six or eight years of age, and literally alone in the world,—without father, mother, or friend! He lodged with some poor body, and paid his way, with a right manful heart, by means of jobs like this.

"She asked him if he did not sometimes find it impossible to get anything to do, which he confessed was too often the case.

"'Don't you sometimes get discouraged, and feel afraid that you can't get on?' The child looked up with a perplexed and inquiring eye, as if uncertain of her meaning, and troubled with a new doubt.

"'Why,' said he, 'don't you think God

will take care of a feller, if he puts his trust in him, and does the best he can?'

"His questioner felt rebuked by his simple faith, and sorry that she had disturbed it by interposing her own doubts. She took pains to investigate the case, and became the little boy's patron, and he is now doing well under her care, or rather under that of the God in whom he trusted."

"GO THOU AND DO LIKEWISE."

Boys, what can you do? Let me tell you. You can induce some lad, rich or poor, to join your Sabbath school and seek in this way to do him good, can you not? You need not wait to look out especially for those who are poor, although it is very desirable to get such under religious influences, but any of your companions who do not go to the school are the ones to seek to benefit. Bring them in. They are all poor in heart if not in purse. Work while you are young for Christ! Read this narrative below about two boys whom somebody induced to go to Sabbath-school.

Two little boys were admitted into a Sunday-school who were sons of very poor parents. They were of low habits, and frequently disturbed the neighbours with the most violent altercations among themselves. Indeed their conduct was such as to give us little hope that the children would be benefited by attending the school while they had so bad an example at home. But man sees not as God sees; and here, where to all human appearance there was the least reason to hope for success, God was pleased to manifest the power of that grace whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

The boys, who were intelligent children, carried home those lessons they had learned at school, by which, together with the books they received, they became teachers of the things of God to those parents who had formerly instructed them in iniquity. The mother became impressed with the truth, repented of her sins, and gave evidence of having given her heart to Christ. The father, and also his eldest son, about 20 years of age, who was formerly a very dissolute and immoral character, have observed a constant attendance on Divine worship, and, we hope, have turned them from the power of sin and Satan to the glorious liberty of the children of God. If any proofs were wanting to show the influence of Sunday-schools, this would be sufficient.

The Teachers' Column.

"CAN'T AFFORD TO BE RELIGIOUS."

In one of the metropolitan Ragged Schools was, a short time since, a class called the "Unmanageables." They were rough, uncouth, self-willed boys, on whom all kindnesses of the male teachers were thrown away entirely, and so they were turned over to the gentle influence of a devoutly-pious female teacher. The lady had a hard task, but she undertook it with pleasure; and prayerfully did she attempt to instil right principles into the minds of the band of "unmanageables." For awhile her labour appeared to be totally thrown away; but still she worked on, placing implicit faith in the promise of God's Holy Word, which assured her that she should reap in due season if she fainted not—and now her reward came. She fancied one day that she saw signs of relenting on the part of one of the boys, into whose eyes the tears stole one afternoon. After school was over, she called him on one side and said "James, have *you* not a desire to serve the Lord Jesus Christ?" The hitherto stolid spirit of the boy was now melted into submission; and he said, "I should like to be religious, but I can't afford it!"

"Can't afford it, James? It will not cost you anything. God does not demand pecuniary sacrifices from his servants. Do you not know that the Bible invites all to 'Come without money and without price'?"

But still the boy insisted that he "could not afford it." The teacher kindly asked him to tell her of his difficulty.

"Why, you see," he said, "I works in a shipbuilder's yard, and they let me take shavings home; and while I am picking up the shavings I picks up pieces of wood, and takes 'em home, makes stools of 'em, and sells 'em. I only earns four shillings a week at the yard, and I can't live upon that. I know it's wrong to take the wood, but I can't afford to be religious!"

The teacher saw that now was her opportunity; so she said, "Well, James, now promise me you will try for one month to do without stealing the wood, and let us see if something does not in the meantime turn up to relieve you from what you appear to think to be a necessity —to steal wood."

The boy gave his promise; and in three weeks he came to his teacher, his face beaming with pleasure, and told her that his master had come up to him while in the yard, and said he had lately watched him in his constant attention to work, and he intended to raise his wages a shilling per week.

"Did I not tell you, James, that most likely something would 'turn up'? And does not the Bible tell us that all things work together for good for those who love God?"

"I had a hard matter to leave off stealing, though," said James, with tears of gratitude in his eyes. "The pieces of wood lay about close to my fingers, and they appeared to mock me and say, 'Why don't you pick us up?'"

"And so it will ever be, James; temptations will always beset you. Evil companions will try to lure you into their bad habits; but you must refuse them, and pray for strength from God to resist the 'temptation of the world, the flesh, and the devil.'"

James is now an active, zealous member of one of the chief Congregational Churches of the metropolis.

The Reapers' Corner.

FAITHFUL IN A LITTLE.

"How is it, Betty," said a minister to a poor woman in Wales, who was always observed to contribute something, whenever a collection was made; "how is it that I always see you drop something in the plate? Where do you get it?"

"O, sir, I do not know," she replied; "the Lord knows my heart and good-will to his cause; and somehow or other, when a collection is to be made, I am sure to have my penny before me, and when it comes, I put it in the plate."

"Well," said he, "you have been faithful in a little, take this, and do what you will with it."

"Twenty shillings, sir!" said she; "I never had so much money in my life; what shall I do with it?"

"I dare say you will find means of spending it," said he, "if your heart is devoted to the Lord's cause."

Soon after this a man came round to solicit subscriptions for some benevolent object; he went to one person, who gave him five shillings, and another gave him ten, both of which were regarded as pretty liberal donations. Happening to come to this poor woman, he asked what she would do?"

"Put my name down for twenty shillings," she said.

"Twenty shillings!" said he; "why, where did you get it from?"

"O, sir," said she, "I got it honestly; put it down."

She gave him the money, and in about two weeks from that time she received a letter informing her that a friend had just left her one hundred pounds!

How often do we see fulfilled that Scripture, "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."—Prov. xi. 24.

Poetry.

GREAT ENDS FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS.

What if a drop of rain should say,
"So small a thing as I
Can ne'er refresh the thirsty plain,
I'll tarry in the sky"?

What if a shining beam of noon
Should in the sun delay,
Because its feeble light alone
Cannot create a day?

Doth not each rain-drop help to form
The cool refreshing shower?
And every ray of light to warm
And beautify the flower?

A whispered word may touch the heart,
And call it back to life,
A look of love bid sin depart,
And calm unholy strife.

No act falls fruitless; none can tell
How vast its power may be,
Nor what results enfolded dwell
Within it silently.

Work, and despair not; give thy mite,
Care not how small it be,
God is with all who love the right,
The holy, true, and free.

THE HUT ON THE VACANT LOT.

We live in a hut on a vacant lot,
Father and mother, and I;
'Tis away up town, and a dreary spot,
With old stone quarries hard by.
Father is lazy, and mother she drinks,
And I am ragged and thin,
And I look like a thief, for 'tis hard to be pure
When circled around with sin.

'Tis a desperate place, this vacant lot,
A region of famine and woe;
The labourers found a strangled child
In the quarries not long ago.

And father is sometimes out all day,
And comes staggering home at night
With money and things that he hides away,
For he never came by them right.

Mother is always at me to steal,
And urges her plea with a curse;
She tells me to sneak through the city crowds,
And pocket a watch or a purse;
And father beats me because I say
That I'd rather any day die;
I never have robbed, and I never will rob,
And I'll tell you the reason why.

There came to our hovel three years ago
A man with a sweet mild face,
And he held a holy book in his hand
That he tried to read in our place.
But mother she swore at the mild-faced man,
And drove him out of our den,
And told him never as long as he lived
To darken her door again.

But something made me follow the man,
I think he beckoned to me,
And he led me down to a quarry's cleft,
Where none of my people could see;
And he read to me things from the holy book
That I never had heard before,
And somehow a peace come over my heart,
And it didn't feel half so sore.

They may curse and beat me as much as they like,
I know what they don't know;
I know that things in the end come right
For those that suffer below.
No matter how ragged and hungry I am,
With no one to like or to love,
I know there's a vacant lot for me,
In the beautiful land above.

Notice of Meeting.

THE "ONE TUN" RAGGED SCHOOLS, WESTMINSTER.

The annual meeting in connection with these schools was held in the school-room, Perkins's-rents, June 19th. The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury presided.

There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen, and it was also gratifying to find present a great number of women belonging to the poorest class who reside in the wretched slums surrounding Westminster, who appeared fully to appreciate the advantages the institution conferred on their children, their husbands, and themselves.

The proceedings commenced with prayer, and the interesting ceremony of presenting prizes and certificates of merit to six boys and nine girls took place. Of the scholars who received prizes, three boys had kept their situations above two years, and received a certificate of merit and 7*s.* 6*d.* each; one girl who had occupied her situation for upwards of four years, and had already received the highest money prize, was presented with a Bible. The others had each been in their situations above twelve months, and obtained good characters, and now received certificates of merit.

The "One Tun" Band of Hope and the children then sung a temperance song very nicely.

The annual report was then read. It showed that the results the school had achieved were very beneficial; that whilst it commenced as a Ragged School only, in two miserable rooms, it had not only a good school-room, but that the operations of the institution comprised Day Schools, for boys, girls, and infants (98 girls, 60 boys, and 48 infants in attendance); Evening Schools for boys and girls in employment; Sunday Schools; Mothers' Meeting, with 68 members; Ragged Church; a Band of Hope, 220 members; Working Men's Club and Reading-room, a Penny Bank, a Clothing Fund, a Lending Library, and a special Sick and Destitute Fund. It also pointed out that the Working Men's Club was admirably managed by a committee of working men. The room is fitted up plainly, and the men attend in their working clothes, and are provided with conveniences for washing themselves, can have a pint of good coffee for a half-penny, the like sum per week being the fee for membership. The expenses of the reading-room are about £40 per annum, and are paid by means of a public subscription. The cost of carrying on the schools, &c., is about £170 per annum, towards which only £100 are received by subscription. £50 is now required to clear it from debt, which it is hoped and believed will be speedily subscribed by the charitable public.

The noble Chairman then addressed the meeting at some length, and with considerable earnestness, expatiating on the advantages to society in general which these Ragged Schools secured, and expressing his extreme gratification that the Working Men's Club had succeeded at the "One Tun," though similar institutions had failed elsewhere.

Rev. J. B. Owen, Rev. J. Rodgers, Rev. Mr. Price, J. Payne, Esq., Mr. J. G. Gent, and others, addressed the meeting.

The Cottager

IN TOWN AND COUNTRY.

NEW MONTHLY PENNY PERIODICAL FOR THE LABOURING CLASSES.

ONE of the marked features of the day is the effort to improve the social condition of town and country labourers.

The provision made for the religious and secular instruction of the people by the Religious Tract Society and other instrumentalities has appeared ample, so far as intelligent mechanics are concerned. But no periodical has hitherto existed exactly suited to that still larger class who have almost lost the capability of reading, imperfectly acquired in their young days, and who have no stimulus to intellectual improvement. The greater proportion of the agricultural poor, including those who in their later years have migrated to our cities, are still but children in education. They need therefore large type, household words, pictorial illustrations, and a clear and vivid style.

This want the Committee of the Religious Tract Society are now supplying by the issue of a penny monthly periodical.

THE COTTAGER is distinct from any other of the Society's publications. It is an addition to, and not a substitute for the Sunday at Home, Leisure Hour, Tract Magazine, or Child's Companion. Six numbers have already been published, and have met with the highest approval.

From the Archbishop of Canterbury.

"I have to thank you for the numbers of the 'Cottager' which you have sent me, and cannot but admire the manner in which it has been got up, compared with the price. Nothing but an immense circulation can prevent its being a serious loss to your Society. I shall have much pleasure in recommending it when I have opportunity."

From the Bishop of London.

"From the cursory inspection which I have been able to make of the few numbers you forwarded me, I think them particularly good, and likely to interest the class of persons for whom they are intended."

From the Bishop of Durham.

"I think the 'Cottager' is well calculated for the object for which it has been published. The type is clear; the illustrations well executed; the tone Christian; the stories interesting. I hope it may meet with the success it deserves."

From the Bishop of Lincoln.

"It is calculated to be very useful, and I should be glad to hear that it wins its way to a very wide circulation."

From the Bishop of Peterborough.

"I have taken in the 'Cottager' from its beginning, and circulated it. I think it is one of the best amongst the many excellent periodicals of the same character now in circulation."

From the Bishop of Ripon.

"I shall have much pleasure in recommending for circulation, whenever I have the opportunity, the excellent publication of your Society, the 'Cottager.' It appears to me admirably adapted both in style and matter to win the attention and improve both the minds and hearts of those for whom it has been especially intended."

From the Bishop of Rochester.

"I have to thank you for sending me specimens of the periodical intended for the agricultural districts, and am happy to add my name to the list of those who recommend it for the widest circulation."

From the Bishop of St. Asaph.

"The Bishop of St. Asaph begs leave to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of some numbers of the 'Cottager,' and to express his belief that the work, such as he finds it, is likely to be really beneficial to those for whose use it is prepared."

From the Bishop of St. David's.

"The sample which you have sent to me of the 'Cottager,' seems to me well adapted for circulation among the class for which you state it to be designed, and I should be disposed to submit it to our Book Hawking Associations as likely to afford attractive and useful reading."

From the Bishop of Derry.

"The Bishop of Derry begs to acknowledge the receipt of four copies of the interesting and valuable periodical sent him. The Bishop will not fail to recommend it and promote its circulation to the best of his power."

"I like your 'Cottager.' We are to introduce it wherever we have an agent: and especially where our new lay Evangelists are at work they will sell the serial. One member of our Committee has offered to pay for 1,000 copies a month if I get a few other gentlemen to follow his example."—*The Rev. J. H. Wilson, Secretary to the Home Missionary Society.*

"I have perused the numbers of the 'Cottager' already published; and I trust that it will obtain and preserve a wide circulation amongst the classes for whose benefit it is designed. If it be continued as it has commenced, it will, I doubt not, be found to add another element of great usefulness to those by which the Tract Society is so eminently distinguished."—*The Rev. James Parsons, York.*

"I cannot refrain from saying how thankfully I have welcomed your new publication, the 'Cottager.' I have entrusted to me the charge of about 2,400 souls, among whom there are circulated, by means of an efficient band of tract distributors, no less than 230 monthly, *all of which are paid for.* This will prove to you that at any rate the cottagers themselves think it a publication suited to them."—*The Rev. H. Wright, Alfreton.*

"I have read with much interest your new publication, and, having a large conventional district (exclusively of the very poorest in the town) assigned to my charge, I have been no indifferent observer of the hopelessness of some measures of temporal and spiritual relief which certain philanthropists suggest. . . . . I have consequently arranged to take in a certain number of the 'Cottager,' [for distribution and purchase through the aid of district visitors,] and I hope I am not too late to secure 300 copies."—*The Rev. Spencer R. Drummond, Brighton.*

"I like the 'Cottager' very much, and have ordered my bookseller to send me twelve copies every month."—*The Rev. J. C. Ryle, Helmingham Rectory, Suffolk.*

"Its appearance and style are most attractive, and it will, I trust, find ready access to many a cottage home."—*The Rev. T. G. Hatchard, Rural Dean, Guildford.*

"It is in every respect admirable. The large type is a great feature."—*The Rev. D. Capper, Rural Dean, Huntley Rectory, Gloucester.*

"I am quite sure that the 'Cottager' will prove a valuable help in my work, the reform which is needed in the habits of the poor being more clearly indicated than in any of your former publications."—*Mrs. Fison, Secretary to the Sanitary Improvement Ladies' Society.*

"An admirable addition to the periodical literature of the working classes. It furnishes an excellent *variety* in our religious tracts; and in thousands of cottages it cannot fail to be both a pleasant and a profitable visitor. We give it our heartiest commendation."—*The Freeman.*

"Most beautifully illustrated, and written in a remarkably simple and attractive style. It is marvellous how such a publication can be produced for a penny. Every cottager in the kingdom ought to see it."—*The Compass.*

"It is illustrated, and appears to combine all the essentials requisite to the formation of a cheap attractive periodical publication, the unexceptionable moral principles which it inculcates being plainly set forth in every page by tale and anecdote."—*English Churchman.*

"A new periodical, which deserves to succeed. It is very attractively got up, and a portion of it printed in large type. We wish publishers would think more of this last-mentioned feature when they address themselves to the wants of the poor."—*The Bookseller.*

"May be confidently recommended. It is illustrated by superior woodcuts, and it has one great advantage, that it is printed in large type (some of it very large), and is thus adapted for a numerous class—comprising more than the aged—to whom the small type so commonly used is a serious obstacle."—*Leeds Mercury.*

"We cordially recommend it to all who feel interested in the class for whom it is intended."—*Yorkshire Gazette.*

"What the 'Leisure Hour' is to the well educated artizans of England, the 'Cottager' promises to be to the less educated poor, and to the young of both sexes, who greatly need a sound healthy work like the 'Cottager.'"—*Yorkshire Advertiser.*

"The 'Cottager' is admirably adapted to the class whose name it bears, and both in letterpress and its engravings is rendered very attractive."—*Sherborne Journal.*

"Likely to supply a long-felt want. Proprietors and farmers wishing to do their labourers' children a kindness will do well to give them a copy of the 'Cottager,' with strict injunctions to read it to their parents."—*Easingwold Chronicle.*

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